



# News Release

## WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Public Affairs Office  
2400 Wright Street  
Madison, WI 53704

Contact: Peter Blum  
608-269-8040

September 30, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Academy for troubled teens has openings

The Wisconsin National Guard Challenge Academy is taking applications for its next class of cadets, which begins on January 14, 2005. The Challenge Academy is designed for at-risk youths who have the desire and the courage to change the direction of their lives.

The program is for those who have dropped out of high school or habitual truants who have fallen more than one year behind in credits. It consists of 22 weeks at Fort McCoy in a highly structured environment, followed by one year in the cadet's home community working with a local mentor nominated by the cadet.

Each cadet participates in the academy's eight core components: academic instruction leading to Wisconsin's High School Equivalency Degree (HSED); job skills training; physical fitness; health, hygiene and nutrition; leading and following; life-coping skills; responsible citizenship; and community service.

To qualify for the program, male and female applicants must be between 16 years, 9 months and 18 years old on January 14, 2005. They must have dropped out or be habitually truant from high school. They cannot be on parole or probation for other than juvenile-status offenses, awaiting sentencing, under indictment, or charged with or convicted of a felony. They must be drug-free when they enter the program. Cadets attend voluntarily; the academy is not open to placement by court order. After applying, potential cadets will be invited to the Challenge Academy at Fort McCoy for personal interviews.

Early application is strongly encouraged. Applications can be obtained from the Challenge Academy's Admissions Department by phoning (608) 269-4605 or downloaded from the Academy Website [www.challengeacademy.org](http://www.challengeacademy.org).

# # # #

**Note to editors and news directors: On-site tours and interviews about the Challenge Academy program can be arranged by contacting Peter Blum, Deputy Director, at (608) 269-8040.**

Current National Guard News Releases available at: <http://dma.wi.gov/news.asp>